



ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS
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WASHINGTON STATE HEALTH SECRETARY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Organization Represents U.S. State and Territorial Public Health Agencies

(NASHVILLE) – Mary C. Selecky, Secretary of the Washington State Department of Health, has been named President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. ASTHO is the nonprofit organization representing state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia.

"Mary Selecky brings extensive public health experience and demonstrated leadership abilities to ASTHO," said George E. Hardy, Jr., MD, MPH, Executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based organization. "Her insight, as well as her ability to bring people together to collaboratively solve problems, will help us continue to make significant strides in building public health infrastructure and developing preparedness plans."

Selecky has been a member of ASTHO since 1999, when she was appointed Secretary of the Washington State Department of Health by Governor Gary Locke. She has served on the organization's executive committee for the past two years and is excited about taking on the new responsibilities.

"I am honored to lead this organization during such a critical time for public health," said Selecky. "Concerns over West Nile virus and bioterrorism have brought new attention to our work. We must continue to provide important everyday public health services while we find ways to meet these new challenges."

Selecky has experience in both state and local public health. She served for 20 years as administrator of the Northeast Tri-County Health District in Colville, Washington. She helped create the state's Department of Health and was instrumental in developing Washington's Public Health Improvement Plan, which is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective approach to meeting the evolving challenges of public health.

Selecky leads the Washington State public health emergency preparedness efforts. In addition, she has made reducing tobacco use in Washington State a top priority.

Selecky is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. She is past president of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials and a former board member of the National

Association of County and City Health Officials and the Legislative Committee of the Washington Rural Health Association.

Selecky became ASTHO President on September 13, 2002, after being elected President-Elect in 2001. She will serve a one-year term.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

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